

# The Punta Gorda Herald

VOL. XVI

PUNTA GORDA, FLA., NOON, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1908.

NO. 28

## THE GLORIOUS FOURTH

**Celebrated in Punta Gorda With Much Eclat.**

Myakka Tribe I. O. R. M. deserves the thanks of the whole community for a successful and highly creditable celebration of the Glorious Fourth, which was greatly enjoyed by hundreds of people. Had it not been for this progressive order, the only observance here would have consisted in the closing of the bank and post office for the entire day and of the stores for a few hours. As it was, the Red Men prepared a very attractive and appropriate program and advertised it with dodgers, with the result that, not only our town people, but many from out of town were present and contributed to the success of the occasion.

The ceremonies began with a street parade in the morning. The procession was preceded by Town Marshal Jones and three braves on horse back clearing the way, after whom came Governor Gilchrist and Mayor Porter in a surrey that was profusely decorated with the national colors. Next marched a band of warriors in gay apparel, after whom came a float, brilliant with the national colors, and representing an Indian wigwam containing warriors, squaws and papposes.

Bringing up the rear, came the Red Men's League in military uniforms with glittering sabers. After the parade, the league drilled in front of Hotel Dade and saluted Governor Gilchrist and Mayor Porter. This closed the morning's exercises.

The fun began at 2 p. m., on the plaza in front of Hotel Dade. The first thing was a foot race of 100 yards between half a dozen men, which was won by C. A. Tolson, with George A. McLane second. Then came a foot race of 50 yards, in which six young ladies, married and single, participated. This was won by Miss Pearl Stephens, with Mrs. Luke Curry second, both ladies being from Charlotte Harbor.

A standing jump followed and was won by A. P. (Bertie) Hatch, D. P. Sharp second. In the high jump, C. A. Tolson came out first, A. P. Hatch second. A three legged race came next and was quite amusing, two men with one leg of each tied to the other, running. In this, A. P. Hatch and Geo. W. McLane were the victors and B. M. Wade and E. B. Fortson were second.

An egg race by ladies was next on the program and was won by Mrs. M. V. Williams closely followed by Miss Eugenia Whittaker. Then came a comical sack race, which resulted in triumph for D. P. Sharp with A. P. Hatch second.

The "tug of war" between the Fishermen and Landlubbers followed; and while the contestants were preparing for it, B. M. Wade offered a prize for the most awkward man present, which, by a rousing vote of the assemblage, was awarded to Mr. Wade himself. This was a joke, as Mr. Wade is a graceful gentleman.

The "tug of war" consisted in eight men on each side pulling against each other with a big, long

rope. The Fishermen proved stronger and hauled the Landlubbers ten feet across the line and won.

Then came a great baseball game between the "Shorts" and the "Longs," which was hotly contested for two hours and resulted in victory for the "Shorts" by a score of 13 to 4. In this, Geo. A. McLane was awarded the prize for the best player and T. A. Stephens, of Charlotte Harbor, that for the second best. The game was umpired by Gov. Gilchrist, who also acted as judge in all the preceding contests. The ball game ended the celebration. Nice and appropriate prizes were given the victors in all the contests.

Fortunately, no rain interrupted the exercises, and the great concourse of people had a most enjoyable day. During the time the celebration was on, from 10 a. m. till 5 p. m., all the business houses were closed and everybody turned out to witness the exercises. After these were over, the stores were opened and the multitude rushed in and made clerks and bosses "bump themselves" till 10 p. m.

Again we thank the Red Men for giving us the biggest and jolliest day of the year.

### Florida and Italy.

Ocala Banner:—Just after the conclusion of the civil war, Colonel John W. Forney, editor of two newspapers, one in Philadelphia and one in Washington, and second in reputation only to Horace Greeley, James Gordon Bennett and Charles A. Dana, visited Florida, and afterwards visited Italy.

From Italy he wrote back to his Philadelphia paper, the Press, as follows:

"I look forward to the day when, assisted by civilization, under the joint influence of science and the government, the beautiful state of Florida in my own country may become a winter resort as famous as that of Cannes. The latter is twenty-seven hours from Paris and thirty-four from London, but you cannot reach it from the British capital without entering the Stormy Channel, and the means of approach from Paris, delightful as they are, are not more so than the comfortable transportation from Philadelphia to Jacksonville. Florida boasts a Mediterranean in her St. Johns river; her climate and her productions are those of Northern Italy, and nothing but time is needed to make her all that Cannes and Nice are today. These latter are the growth of centuries, while Florida was only acquired from Spain within the last fifty or sixty years, and has but recently been baptized into the appreciation of constitutional liberty."

These lines were written before Mr. Flagler stretched his wand over Florida; before Plant and Ybor invaded Tampa; before Albertus Vogt discovered phosphate; before the virtue of turpentine was fully known; before the attention of people was turned in the direction of fruits and vegetables; before Florida had developed into an Eldorado of wealth and beauty.

Suppose Colonel Forney were yet alive and were to visit Florida, what would be his impressions?

The transformation of Florida is simply marvelous.

## THORNLESS CACTUS

**To Be Florida's Coming Food Crop.**

Ocala Banner:—The Opuntia, or thornless cactus, as a food crop for Southern Florida and the Keys is an established fact. This wonderful food, also known as Spineless Opuntia, is the greatest discovery of plant life of this or any other age, the product of a single plant being often from 50 to 200 pounds of edible food.

The Opuntias, which from their well known hardiness, remarkable vigor and rapidity of their growth, easy multiplication and universal adaptability to conditions of drouth, flood, heat, cold, rich or arid soil, are placed in a class far ahead of all other members of the great cactus family, both as forage plants and for their most attractive, wholesome and most delicious fruits which are produced abundantly and without fail each season. These fruits, which are borne on the different species and varieties, vary in size from that of a small peanut to the size of a large banana, and in colors of crimson, scarlet, yellow and white, and have more various attractive flavors than are usually found in most other fruits, except perhaps the apple and the pear; some plants bearing one crop, others two or more each season, like the figs—the first or main crop ripening as the second comes into bloom on the same plants.

There is no waste in Opuntias; from root to tip they are practically all food and drink, and are greatly relished by all herbivorous animals, from a canary bird to an elephant. These plants have been secured from all sections of Mexico, from Central and South America, from North and South Africa, Australia, Japan, Hawaiian and South Sea Islands. The United States Agricultural department at Washington, through Mr. David G. Fairchild, also secured eight kinds of partly thornless ones from Sicily, Italy, France and North Africa, besides a collection of Mexican wild thorny ones, which were in the government green houses at the time. Besides these, some wild hardy species were secured in Maine, Iowa, Colorado, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Dakota, Texas and from the west coast and keys off Florida.

By selection and crossing the Opuntia, the agricultural and horticultural values were studied and compared with great care and the work has so far progressed that now the improved Opuntia is one of the most important food producers of this age. Intelligent stock raisers everywhere know well that it means a new agricultural era for whole continents. Some doubters will say, "Will it pay?" Does anything pay? Some people seem to think that corn, wheat, oats, barley, cotton, rice, tobacco, melons and potatoes pay. How many tons of hay, beets or potatoes can be raised each season on an acre of good soil? By actual weigh and test in the summer of 1906, in the coast climate of Sonoma county, California, on heavy, black, adobe soil, generally thought wholly unsuited for cactus, the new Opuntias produced

the first year (six months) from single rooted leaves, planted about June 1, an average of 47 1-2 pounds per plant on one-fourth of an acre, yielding at the distance planted (2 1-2 to 5 feet) at the rate of 180,230 pounds (over ninety tons) of forage per acre. In countries where great numbers of valuable stock are lost in times of unusual drought, these improved Opuntias will be of inestimable value and will also, without doubt, prove of great value as a common farm or orchard crop even on the best agricultural soils, but more especially in barren, rocky locations.

Tampa Times:—The canning factory at Starke is reported to be operated very successfully, and it will have the good wishes of every citizen of the state. All our infant industries should have the benefit of the patronage of the people of Florida. There is no trouble about it, if people will only be thoughtful enough to inquire of their grocers for things made in Florida and insist upon having them. By the way, if you have not yet tried the crackers made in Jacksonville, secure some in your next grocery order. If you use macaroni, insist on having the Tampa brand.

### Trying New Laws.

Tampa Times:—You don't hear of any capitalist moving out of Oklahoma, notwithstanding the state has adopted the most advanced constitution and enacted laws of a more "radical" character than any other state in the union. Corporations pay gross receipts taxes, there are inheritance and income taxes on the ownership of land, and the initiative and referendum without end. So far as capital is concerned it seems confident it can hold its own in the new state so long as it can have a square deal with the rest of the inhabitants. Oklahoma is a sort of national experiment station, and if the results are good it may be expected that the people of other states will take note of it.

Several of the peculiar laws of Australia and New Zealand have been adopted in Oklahoma, and as they seem to have worked satisfactorily in those far off countries they may be expected to be as good here. Among the most satisfactory of the new departures recently put into effect in the youngest state is the guaranteeing of bank deposits. A recent failure was accompanied by no spread of panic, no alarm or uneasiness, and was promptly followed by the payment of all depositors. Let us keep our eyes on Oklahoma.

Gainesville Sun:—The Sun is just in receipt of the 1908-9 catalogue of the State College for Women located in Talahassee. The book is full of valuable information for prospective students. Prof. Albert A. Murphree president of the college, will be pleased to furnish one to any party who may desire to see same. The aim of the institution is, in the course of time, to provide every facility for the higher education of women and to render the college a university for women in fact if not in name. Gainesville has furnished her share of the student body for the past three years, and all who have attended from this city have been well pleased with the work.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

**Of Albert W. Gilchrist, Florida's Next Governor.**

Jacksonville Metropolis:—Gen. Albert Waller Gilchrist of Punta Gorda, who was recently nominated for Governor of Florida, was born in 1858, son of Gen. William E. Gilchrist, a planter and extensive owner of lands in South Carolina, who removed to Florida about 1845, lived at Quincy until his death, and rendered public service as a member of the State senate and representative from Gadsden county. His wife, Elizabeth Waller, of South Carolina, was a great grand-daughter of Joseph Ball, father of Mary Washington, and a grand-daughter of John Waller a noted Baptist preacher of Virginia.

Albert Waller Gilchrist was reared and educated at Quincy, and afterward attended the military institute at Columbia and at Charlotte, N. C. In 1878 he received the appointment as cadet at the United States Military academy, where he served as private, sergeant and lieutenant. In 1896 he visited the institution as a member of the board of visitors. The association with military affairs begun at West Point has continued through later years, agreeable to Mr. Gilchrist, and with opportunities for valuable service to his State and country.

In the administration of Gov. A. E. Perry he was appointed inspector general of Florida, with the rank of colonel, and by Governor Fleming he was retained in this position, also by Governor Mitchell, by whom he was advanced to the rank of brigadier general of the State militia. On June 16, 1898, in the emergency with the war with Spain, he resigned his State commission and enlisted as a private in the Third regiment, United States volunteer infantry, and without much delay he was advanced successively to the ranks of lieutenant, captain and acting major. He served in Cuba, at Santiago and Guantanamo, and was mustered out May 1, 1899.

For fifteen years General Gilchrist has been in the real estate business at Punta Gorda; is himself an extensive owner of realty and has negotiated some large sales of land. He has served his State also in civil office, being an influential member of the Florida Legislature from 1893 to 1905, and served as Speaker of the House in 1905. He is a prominent member of the Masonic order, past master of the Punta Gorda lodge, and for three years was marshal of the Grand lodge of Florida. He was christened in the Episcopal church. General Gilchrist has never married.

Bartow Courier-Informant:—Mr. M. W. Fuller from near the Dominion mines was in Bartow Monday. Mr. Fuller says he has sold \$600 worth of hen eggs in five years time. Of course this has just been a side issue on his place and has not been a specialty.

Col. Tom Appleyard, of the Lake City Index, went up to Denver to nominate Gov. Johnson for president, whom he discovered before Henry Watterson did.